

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 172806
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 OES-07 /027 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:H.B.LANE:CLC
APPROVED BY ARA/MEX:H.B.LANE
INTERIOR (USGS):H.FLEMING
-----051032 240110Z /72
R 230256Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
INFO AMCONSUL MATAMOROS

UNCLAS STATE 172806

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:OTRA, TPHY, MX

SUBJECT:GOM APPROVAL FOR PALEONTOLOGICAL FIELD TRIP

1. THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MR.
CHARLES C. SMITH, GEOLOGIST, TRAVEL TO MEXICO TO MEASURE
A NEW ROAD-CUT SECTION AND COLLECT A SERIES OF SAMPLES FOR
MICRO-PALEONTOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS.

2. THE AREA OF INTEREST IS THE ALMOST CONTINUOUS SERIES OF
ROAD-CUT EXPOSURES SOUTHEAST OF CUIDAD VICTORIA EXTENDING
FROM GONZALEZ NORTH-WESTWARD TO ZARAGOZA. EXPOSURES ALONG
THE HIGHWAY ARE ASSIGNABLE TO THE UPPER CRETACEOUS MENDEZ
SHALE AND OVERLYING PALEOCENE VELASCO FORMATION. THE IM-
PORTANCE OF THIS NEARLY CONTINUOUS SECTION LIES IN THE FACT
THAT WITHIN THE CUIDAD VICTORIA-TAMPICO AREA, THE
CRETACEOUS-TERTIARY CONTACT IS CONFORMABLE AND REPRESENTED
BY CONTINUOUS SEDIMENTATION. WITHIN THE UNITED STATES,
HOWEVER, THIS SAME CONTACT IS UNCONFORMABLE AND THUS THE A
PALEONTOLOGICAL HISTORY OF MICROFOSSILS ACROSS THE BOUNDARY
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CANNOT BE INVESTIGATED. IT IS PROPOSED THAT HE COLLECTED
50 TO 70 ONE-POUND SAMPLES OF ROCK WHICH WILL BE CHEMICALLY
AND MECHANICALLY PROCESSED FOR THE EXTRACTION OF THEIR CON-
TAINED CALCAREOUS MICROFOSSILS. RESULTS OF THESE STUDIES

WILL BE INCORPORATED IN PRESENT RESEARCH STUDIES, AND
RESULTS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE EITHER IN PREPRINT OR

FINAL PUBLISHED FORM TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO.

3. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT MR. SMITH WILL BE JOINED IN THE FIELD BY DR. JOSE GUERRERO AND DR. JOSE F. LONGORIA, FACULTY MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY, UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTONOMA DE MEXICO, MEXICO CITY. HE WILL BE TRAVELING TO MEXICO IN A 1966 1/2 TON, CHEVROLET PICKUP TRUCK, TEXAS LICENSE NO. AE 1649, TITLE NO. 65873770, MOTOR SERIAL NO. C1446S124871. HE HOPES TO CROSS THE BORDER AT LAREDO, TEXAS, ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 16, 1977. HE WILL BE CARRYING NORMAL GEOLOGIC FIELD EQUIPMENT INCLUDING A BRUNTON COMPASS, SMALL SHOVEL, 100 CLOTH SAMPLE BAGS, ETC.

4. EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING GOM APPROVAL FOR THIS PROPOSED FIELD TRIP WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. IF THIS APPROVAL CANNOT BE OBTAINED FOR THE TRIP IN AUGUST IT CAN BE POSTPONED, WITH SOME DIFFICULTY, UNTIL SEPTEMBER. A MAP SHOWING THE PROPOSED AREA OF INVESTIGATION IS BEING POUCHED TO THE EMBASSY. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, SCIENTIFIC VISITS, GEOLOGIC SURVEYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE172806
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: H.B.LANE:CLC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770263-1284
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770726/aaaaavun.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 86ccf264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1767235
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOM APPROVAL FOR PALEONTOLOGICAL FIELD TRIP
TAGS: OTRA, TPHY, MX, US, (SMITH, CHARLES C)
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/86ccf264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009